

I would like to comment on letters from Theodore Rappaport related to Docket No 16-239 proceeding.

As an engineer with over 40 years of communications experience in both commercial and secure military communications and a radio amateur, WB9RKN, I was horrified at the misleading and sometimes flat-out wrong statements by Mr. Rappaport. He confuses encoding and compression with encryption, and uses this to come to misguided conclusions about the ability to use amateur radio digital communications techniques for nefarious ends.

I liken encoding to using groups of letters to express a word, something anyone who knows the language can decode and understand. Compression is like using can't instead of cannot, again, commonly understood because of a common language. Encryption is altogether different, where the word is expressed in a way that only the sender and recipient know the language, which is not used and not useful in amateur radio.

To communicate over long distance, the high frequency bands are used. A major attraction of these bands is the highly variable nature of propagation of signals. To base the outcome of some clandestine operation on such catch-as-catch-can communications, especially without huge and distinctly non-clandestine antennas is ludicrous. This is silly when anyone with a minimum of technical skill can use encryption software to communicate securely and reliably over the Internet.

I ask you to read Mr. Rappaport's arguments with a critical eye. The submissions by the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation are well thought out and supported by many people well skilled in the radio art. I fully support the ARSFI position in this matter.